

September 25, 2006

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)  
City of Rohnert Park, Coleman Creek Storm Drain Improvement Project  
Sonoma County (WDID No. 1B06087WNSO)**

On June 14, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Winzler and Kelly, on behalf of the City of Rohnert Park requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements for the Coleman Creek Storm Drain Improvement Project in Sonoma County, California. The proposed project will disturb Waters of the United States associated with Coleman Creek, a tributary to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.21

The proposed project is located in the area of the intersection between Golf Course Drive and Gavin Way in Rohnert Park, Sonoma County. The purpose of the project is to improve drainage in Coleman Creek to help alleviate flooding along Gavin Way, reduce siltation of the existing outlets and prevent storm water from entering streets and private properties.

The proposed project consists of extending a city owned 48-inch storm drain approximately 700 feet downstream (north) of its existing location. The storm drain will be installed at a depth of 10-feet beneath an existing bike path that runs along the west side of Coleman creek. The new pipe would connect to the old storm drain 50-feet south of the present discharge location and the old pipe will be abandoned in place.

The new outfall into Coleman creek will consist of riprap protection at the discharge location and surrounding area to act as erosion control and an energy dissipater. Regional Water Board staff have requested that the project plans be revised so as to reduce the amount of riprap at the outfall location. The outfall will be installed using machinery located on the bike path and crews located within the creek channel.

There are two six-inch water lines that cross underneath Coleman creek adjacent to the storm drain. The southern water line will be abandoned in place, either sand will be pumped to fill the existing pipe or it will be capped and remain in place. The northern water line would be removed and replaced above the new storm drain.

Erosion Control Best Management Practices (BMPs), to be described in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be used prior, during, and after construction to reduce sediment discharge and stabilize disturbed areas. The SWPPP will be developed by the contractor. Erosion control will include natural erosion control blankets to be anchored on to exposed banks.

Mitigation is proposed including the planting of native vegetation on a 70-foot long by 30-foot wide area on the west side of the channel in the area of the outfall. Planting is to include two of each of the following tree species: Coast Live Oak, Oregon Ash, and Big-leafed Maple. Additional planting will include shrub species for the development of

an understory as well as seeding with a native seed mix. Plantings will be monitored for five years with a minimum survival rate of 85%.

The City of Rohnert Park, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA on June 13, 2006.

The project is scheduled to begin September 2006, and end prior to October 15, 2006. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification."

Due to the urgent nature of this project and to avoid an emergency situation, Notice of Coverage, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Minor Dredging and Fill Activities may be issued during the 21-day public comment period. Public comments will still be accepted and reviewed during the entire 21-day comment period; and the certification may be modified. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member John Caleb Sarsfield at (707) 576-6728 or at [jsarsfield@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jsarsfield@waterboards.ca.gov) or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 or at [sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.